

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-19 NEA-11 DRC-01 AID-20

IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /191 W
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R 281635Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1836

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0076

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SP MR MO LY

SUBJECT: SPANISH CIRCULATE REPORT ON ALGERIAN-LIBYAN ARMS SMUGGLING
TO MOROCCAN DISSIDENTS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0034

SUMMARY: SPANISH CHARGE CURRENTLY CIRCULATING AROUND NOUAKCHOTT
REPORT TO EFFECT THAT ALGERIANS ARE PERMITTING THEIR TERRITORY
TO BE USED AS BASE FOR LIBYAN ARMS SMUGGLING TO MOROCCAN
DISSIDENTS. CHARGE SAYS SOURCE OF REPORT IS SPANISH INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE. HE CONTINUES TO EXPRESS OFFICIAL GOS DISQUIETUDE OVER
ANY EFFORTS CREATE UNITED MAGHREB AND SPECIFICALLY OVER PROPOSED
LIBYAN-TUNISIAN UNION.

1. SPANISH CHARGE TOLD US LATE LAST WEEK HE HAD RECEIVED
REPORTS FROM SPANISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE THAT LIBYAN C-130
AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN SECRETLY FLYING ARMS INTO TINDOUF REGION.
GOS, HE SAID, WAS CONFIDENT THAT ARMS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED FOR
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SPANISH SAHARA DISSIDENTS, BUT BELIEVED THEY DESTINED FOR INSURGENTS

OPERATING IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO. CHARGE SAID SAME REPORT SENT TO SPANISH AMBASSADOR TRIPOLI.

2. IN CONTACTS WITH US AND OTHER EMBASSIES HERE, SPANISH CHJRGE CONTINUES EXPRESS OFFICIAL GOS CONCERN OVER ANY PROSPECT MAGHREB UNION OR CHANGE IN REGIONAL STATUS QUO. DHE HAS ALSO REPEATED REPORT PARA ONE ABOVE TO MOROCCAN AND PERHAPS TO OTHER AMBASSADORS HERE AS WELL. MOROCCAN THIS MORNING SOUGHT OUT CHARGE TO ASK IF HE COULD CONFIRM ARMS SMUGGLING STORY. CHARGE REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD HEARD UNCONFIRMED "RUMOR" TO THIS EFFECT. AMBASSADOR PURSUED SUBJECT MAGHREB RIVALRIES FOR SOME MINUTES, ADDING HE SUSPECTED THAT ALGERIAN ARMS RECENTLY SHIPPED TO MAURITANIA COULD ALSO BE INTENDED FOR MOROCCAN DISSIDENTS. FYI. AMBASSADOR DID NOT REVEAL SOURCE ARMS SMUGGLING REPORT, BUT SPANISH CHARGE HAD ALREADY TOLD US HE HAD GIVEN GIST OF IT TO MOROCCAN. END FYI.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN MADRID'S POLICY OF PLAYING OFF MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA AGAINST EACH OTHER ON SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE, IT IS EASY TO SUSPECT ARMS SMUGGLING REPORT IS INTENDED TO DRIVE YET ANOTHER WEDGE INTO ALREADY FISSURED MAGHREB POLITICAL RELATIONS.
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